

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 PER-01 IO-10 AID-05 PC-01 /078 W

----- 061422

R 301330Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2508

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARISEYPOO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, DM, TO, NG

SUBJ: TOGO/BENIN BORDER CLOSURE

1) PRESIDENT EYADEMA DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE TOGO/
BENIN BORDER SITUATION DURING PRESS CONFERENCE ON ARRIVAL
NIAMEY FOR SUMMIT MEETING WITH KOUNTCHE DECEMBER 27.

2. EYADEMA EMPHASIZED THAT BENIN HAD CLOSED BORDER FIRST.
HE HAD A MEETING SCHEDULED WITH KEREKOU TO DISCUSS PROBLEM
ON OCTOBER 20 BUT KEREKOU CLOSED BORDER WITHOUT NOTICE
OCT 18. TOGO DID NOT CLOSE BORDER UNTIL NOV. 6 WHEN IT
WAS KNOWN BENIN HAD OPENED FRONTIER TO ALL EXCEPT TOGO.

3. TOGO REOPENED BORDER NOV. 10 DURING VISIT OF GHANA'S
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FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT KEREDOU UPPED ANTE BY DEMANDING THAT ALL

DAHOMIAN RESIDENTS IN TOGO BE EXPELLED. TOGO WISHED
NEITHER TO HARBOR CONSPIRATORS NOR TO ENGAGE IN MASS
EXPLUSIONS. THUS EYADEMA ASKED FOR A LIST OF THOSE KEREKOU
WISHED REPATRIATED. NO LIST HAS EVER BEEN PRODUCED.

4. ROOT OF PROBLEM, EYADEMA CONTINUED, IS NOT POLITICAL
PLOTS AGAINST BENIN BUT COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE--BASICALLY BENIN WANTS
PREFERRED ACCESS TO NIGERIA AS A MARKET. THIS REPLECTED
IN BENIN'S EARLIER MOVE TO TAX TOGO GOODS ON WAY
TO NIGERIA. TOGO HAS TRIED, WITHOUT SUCESS, TO GET BENIN
TO REPEAL SUCH TAXES WHICH GO AGAINST QUOTE ALL THE
INTERNATIONAL RULES. UNQUOTE

5. COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING KOUNTCHE-EYADEMA MEETING OMITTS SPECIFIC
MENTION OF TOGO/BENIN BORDER PROBLEMS, BUT THE GOVERNMENTS
REAFFIRMED QUOTE TOTAL COMMITMENT TO GOALS OF ECOWAS
END QUOTE, WHICH SEEMS INDIRECT WAY OF NOTING DISAPPROVAL OF
BORDER CLOSING.HECK

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: EXPULSION, BORDER INCIDENTS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
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Draft Date: 30 DEC 1975
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: TOGO/BENIN BORDER CLOSURE 1) PRESIDENT EYADEMA DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE TOGO/
TAGS: PFOR, DM, TO, NG
To: STATE
Type: TE
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